

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

COMSIXTHFLT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

REF: ATHENSBKP8FF #

1. GREEK MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND VIGILANCE AS WELL AS THE
C. L. SULZBERGER NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON GREEK-TURKISH
RELATIONS CAPTURED THE HEADLINES IN THE GREEK PRESS TODAY.
APPARENTLY BASED ON GOVERNMENT BACKGROUNDING, THE NEWSPAPERS
WERE UNANIMOUS IN HIGHLIGHTING WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS
INFORMATION FROM "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES"

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THAT CERTAIN NEW STEPS OF MILITARY PREPAREDNESS HAD BEEN TAKEN,

SUCH AS: POSTPONING LEAVES OF MILITARY OFFICERS, TRANSFERRING NAVAL UNITS AND AIRCRAFT, AND AN INSPECTION TRIP BY ARMY CHIEF GENERAL DAVOS TO THE FRONTIER ZONE ALONG THE EVROS REGION. HOWEVER, ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ABOVE MEASURES THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE REPLIED "NO COMMENT." (MOST ADDRESSEES WILL ALSO HAVE SEEN DAO ATHENS IR 68370252 DTG 121143Z AUG 76 ON THIS SUBJECT).

2. RECEIVING EQUAL, AND, IN SOME CASES, EVEN MORE PROMINENT TREATMENT, WAS THE COVERAGE OF THE SULZBERGER ARTICLE APPEARING YESTERDAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES (AND ALSO IN THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE) ON THE AEGEAN DISPUTE, WITH THE PRESS PLACING EMPHASIS ON SULZBERGER'S CALL FOR THE U.S. TO ADOPT A MORE PRO-GREEK STANCE IN THE UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE. THE AFTERNOON PRESS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO A RELATED REPORT BY THE ATHENS NEW AGENCY FROM NEW YORK CLAIMING THAT THE SULZBERGER ARTICLE WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF A NEW PRO-GREEK SPIRIT IN WASHINGTON.

3. SECONDARY STORIES CENTERED AROUND PREPARATIONS FOR THE ACTUAL SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ITSELF AND COUNTS OF FAVORABLE REACTION TO GREECE'S POSITION REPORTEDLY APPEARING IN THE INTERNATIONAL, ESPECIALLY THE WEST EUROPEAN PRESS. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, AND THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON THE AEGEAN CRISIS URGING RESTRAINT BY BOTH SIDES AND DESIRABILITY OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION ALSO WERE ACCORDED WIDESPREAD TREATMENT. INTERMINGLED IN THE REPORTING ARE SUGGESTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS THAT THE U.S. AND THE SECRETARY MIGHT MEDIATE OR BECOME MORE ACTIVE BEHIND THE SCENES TO FIND A SOLUTION. THE TURKISH REJECTION OF THE SECOND GREEK NOTE RECEIVED COVERAGE AS DID THE GOG'S DETERMINATION TO LET ANY FURTHER REPLY TO THE GOG AWAIT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

4. EDITORIALY, THE PRESS HAD LITTLE NEW TO ADD TO PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED OPINIONS. SOME NEWSPAPERS CONTINUED THEIR CALL FOR NATIONAL UNITY WHILE OTHERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTED TO AN ALLEGED INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST GREECE MANIFESTED THROUGH THE TURKISH ACTIONS. COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE EXTERIOR RIZOSPASTIS ALLEGED EDITORIALY THAT THE U.S. HAD OPPOSED GREECE'S SEEKING RECOURSE TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, AND URGED THAT, THEREFORE, GREECE SHOULD OBSERVE AT THE COUNCIL MEETING WHICH NATIONS WERE TRULY HER FRIENDS. KUBISCH

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

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